

IN THE CLAIMS

~~Claims 1-20 (canceled).~~

21. (currently amended) A point management system comprising:

a point system management apparatus for registering information of a store which participates in a point system, and for providing the store with a register store number for identifying the store and a crypt key of the store for encrypting data, both of said register store number and said crypt key of the store being peculiar to the store;

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an IC card which has a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each of said point storage areas storing point data, which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use, and a point management application, having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store, for processing data, including point data encrypted by said crypt key of the store, using said crypt key of said point management application, and for managing access to ~~each of said a~~ point storage area corresponding to the store areas by based on said a register store number corresponding to the store; and

a reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number and said crypt key of the store.

22. (currently amended) An IC card comprising:

a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each of said point storage areas storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use by a store which is assigned a register store number for identifying the store and a crypt

key of the store for encrypting data, both of said register store number and said crypt key of the store being peculiar to said store; and

a point management application, having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store, for processing data including point data, which is transmitted from outside of said memory of said IC card and encrypted by said crypt key of the store using said crypt key of said IC card, and for managing access to ~~each of said~~ point storage area corresponding to the store ~~areas by~~ based on said a register store number corresponding to the store.

FI 23. (currently amended) A method of issuing point data to an IC card, the method comprising the steps of:

permitting said IC card to be inserted into a reader and writer which has a crypt key of a store for encrypting data and a register store number for identifying the store, both of said register store number and said crypt key of the store being peculiar to the store,

wherein said IC card includes a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each of which stores point data, and a point management application, having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store;

transmitting to said IC card point data encrypted by said crypt key of the store; and

decrypting the encrypted point data₁ by said point management application₁ using said crypt key of the point management application and allowing access to one of said point storage areas, which corresponds to the store, ~~by~~ based on a said register store number corresponding to the store.

24. (currently amended) A method of transmitting point data to an IC card with a reader and writer of a store, the method comprising the steps of:

permitting said IC card to be set into said reader and writer of the store which is uniquely assigned the crypt key of a store for encrypting data and a register store number for identifying the store, said IC card including a memory which has plurality of point storage areas for storing said point data, and a point management application, having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store, for processing said point data and managing access to ~~said a point storage areas~~ area corresponding to the store ~~by~~ based on a said-register store number corresponding to the store;

inputting to the IC card point data encrypted by said crypt key of the store, said point data being issued corresponding to a customer's use;

decrypting the encrypted point data by said point management application using said crypt key of the point management application; and

storing the decrypted point data into ~~one of said point storage area~~ corresponding to the store ~~areas in accordance with~~ based on said register store number corresponding to the store by said point management application.

25. (currently amended) A point management system comprising:

a point system management apparatus which registers a store which participates in a point system, and which provides the store with a register store number for identifying the store and a crypt key of the store for encrypting data which are peculiar to the store;

an IC card having a memory which includes a plurality of point storage areas, each storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use, and a point management application, having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store, for processing data, including point data encrypted by said crypt key, using said crypt key of the point management application, managing access to ~~each of said~~ a point storage area corresponding to the store ~~by~~ based on a said register store number corresponding to the store, and securing a point storage area to store point data of a new store if use of said IC card in the new store is a first time; and

F' a reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number corresponding to the store and said crypt key of ~~said the~~ store.

26. (currently amended) An IC card comprising:

a memory having a plurality of point storage areas storing point data which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use; and

a point management application, having a crypt key corresponding to a crypt key of a store, for processing data, including point data encrypted by said crypt key of the store, using said crypt key of said point management application, managing access to ~~each of said~~ a point storage area corresponding to the store ~~based on a said~~ register store number corresponding to the store, and securing a point storage area to store point data of a new store if use of said IC card in the new store is a first time.

27. (currently amended) A point management system comprising:

point system management apparatus which registers stores which participate in a point system, and which provides each of the stores with a register store number and a crypt key which are peculiar to the store, and which controls a plurality of said stores as a group and provides to the group of stores a group number which is peculiar to the group;

an IC card having a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each storing point data which is assigned by each of the stores corresponding to a customer's use and a group point storage area storing group point data which is assigned by the stores corresponding to a customer's use of a store in the group, and a point management application, having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store, for processing data, including point data encrypted by said crypt key of the store, using said crypt key of said point management application, managing access to ~~each of said~~ point storage areas area corresponding to the store based on a ~~by said~~ register store number corresponding to the store, and managing access to said group point storage area ~~by~~ based on said group number; and

a reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number corresponding to the store, said group number and said crypt key of the store.

28. (currently amended) An IC card comprising:

a memory having a plurality of point storage areas storing point data which is assigned by stores each having a register store number and a crypt key which are peculiar to said store corresponding to a customer's use, and a group point storage

area storing group point data which is assigned by stores within a group of stores having a group number which is peculiar to the group corresponding to a customer's use of stores of the group; and

point management application, having a crypt key corresponding to said crypt key of the store, for processing data, including point data encrypted by said crypt key, using said crypt key of said point management application, managing access to ~~each of said~~ point storage areas ~~by said~~ area based on a register store number corresponding to the store, and managing access to said group storage area ~~by~~ based on said group number.

F1 29. (previously amended) An IC card according to claim 22, wherein said point management application distinguishes data transmitted from a reading and writing apparatus of several stores and records points in an area within said plurality of point storage areas of said memory.

30. (previously added) An IC card according to claim 29, wherein said point management application allows access to an area that corresponds to transmitted data and prohibits access to other areas.

31. (previously added) An IC card according to claim 29, wherein said point management application allows writing point data into an area that corresponds to transmitted data, and prohibits writing to other areas, and reads point data from both an area that corresponds to transmitted data and another store's area.

32. (previously added) A point management system according to claim 25, wherein said point management application distinguishes data transmitted from a reading and writing apparatus of several stores and records points in an area them within said plurality of point storage areas of said memory.

33. (previously added) A point management system according to claim 32, wherein said point management application allows access to an area that corresponds to transmitted data and prohibits access to other areas.

F' 34. (previously added) A point management system according to claim 32, wherein said point management application allows writing point data into an area that corresponds to transmitted data, and prohibits writing to other areas, and reads point data from both an area that corresponds to transmitted data and another store's area.

35. (previously added) An IC card according to claim 22, wherein each of said point storage areas has a history storage area storing times of using said IC card in the store corresponding to said point storage area.

36. (previously amended) A point management system according to claim 25, wherein said point management application writes crypt key peculiar to the new store when securing the point storage area for the new store.

37. (previously added) A point management system according to claim 25, wherein each of said point storage areas has a history storage area storing times of using said IC card in the store corresponding to said point storage area.

38. (currently amended) A point management system comprising:

a point system management apparatus for registering a store which participates in a point system, and for providing the store with a register store number and a crypt key, both of which are peculiar to the store;

an IC card which has a memory having a plurality of point storage areas, each of said point storage areas storing point data, which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use, and a point management application for processing data encrypted by said crypt key and including point data, and for managing access to ~~each of said a point storage areas~~ by area corresponding to the store based on a said register store number corresponding to the store, the access being allowed only to the point storage area corresponding to said register store number; and

a reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number and said crypt key.

39. (previously added) A point management system comprising:

an IC card which has a point management application and a memory having plurality of point storage areas, each of said point storage areas storing point data, which is assigned corresponding to a customer's use;

a point system management apparatus for registering a store which participates in a point system, and for providing the store with a register store

number and a crypt key, both of which are peculiar to the store and are used when accessing to said point management application; and

a reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes said IC card,

wherein said point management application has a function of processing data encrypted by said crypt key, a function of storing a point to said memory, and function of managing so that access is allowed only to the point storage area corresponding to said register store number when said point management application is accessed for updating point.

40. (previously added) A point management system according to claim 25, wherein a new crypt key is stored in a newly secured area by said point management application.

41. (previously added) An IC card according to claim 26, wherein a new crypt key is stored in a newly secured area by said point management application.

42. (previously added) A point management system comprising:
a point system management apparatus which registers stores which participate in a point system, which controls some of stores as a group, and which provides stores participating in the group with a register store number and a group number so that each store participating in the group has both the register store number which is peculiar to the store and the group number which is peculiar to the group;

an IC card having a memory having a plurality of point storage areas storing point data which is assigned by each of the stores corresponding to a customer's use and a group point storage area storing group point data which is assigned by the stores participating in the group corresponding to a customer's use, and a point management application which manages access to each of said point storage area by said register store number and access to said group point storage area by said group number; and

FI a reading and writing apparatus which reads and writes said IC card by using said register store number and said group number.

43. (previously added) A point management system according to claim 42, wherein when point is stored in the memory by the store participating the group, the point is stored in both point storage area corresponding to the register store number and a group point storage area corresponding to the group.

44. (previously added) A point management system according to claim 42, wherein when point is stored in the point storage area corresponding to the register store number by the store participating the group, the point is also stored in a group point storage area corresponding to the group.
